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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2005

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SACRAMENTO RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Roger L. Wirth, and John Barrett of the California State Franchise Tax Board announced today that JOSE J. RAMIREZ, 53, of Sacramento, California pled guilty before United States District Judge David F. Levi to one count of tax evasion. Judge Levi set sentencing for December 15, 2005.

The defendant was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and the California State Franchise Tax Board.

"The prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system," according to IRS Special Agent in Charge Roger L. Wirth. "We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the government."

According to Assistant United States Attorney John K. Vincent, who is prosecuting the case, RAMIREZ admitted to evading taxes by filing a false federal income tax return for tax year 1998 in which he failed to report all of the taxable income he received during that year. He also admitted to filing false federal tax returns for tax years 1997 and 1999; and false state tax returns for tax years 1997 and 1998. The tax loss amounted to approximately \$90,000 to \$100,000.

As part of the plea agreement, RAMIREZ agreed to file amended federal and state tax returns for 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and subsequent years if necessary. He also agreed to pay as soon as practicable all federal and state taxes due and owing, including penalties and interest.

RAMIREZ faces a maximum sentence of five years in custody, a three-year period of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000, the costs of prosecution, and a special assessment of \$100.

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